

Drilling for life in the desert

Members of the 747th Engineering Detachment drill waterholes throughout the most remote regions in Djibouti



1st Lt. Tim Wade

Pipes are sunk into the ground to channel gravel into the ground so that pumping can continue despite blockages. The project is scheduled to be finished sometime this month.



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(Above) SSgt. Harold Shiell, lead driller, 747th Engineering Detachment demonstrates how water flows through the pipes and back out into the sand pit.

(Left) Shiell demonstrates how a drill bit turns as it moves through the ground burrowing through rock. The well drillers have drilled down to 670 feet at a well site near Yoboki, Djibouti.